



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Maxwell C. Uy
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Thursday, March 9, 2023
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mission: To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community for families to live free of abuse.

Minutes

Present: Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist Healthcare); Assistant Chief Nicholas Augustine (Montgomery County Police Department); The Honorable Lynne Harris (Montgomery County Public School – Board of Education); Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council); Rochelle Perry (Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Parole and Probation); The Honorable Karla Smith (Circuit Court for Montgomery County); Ben Stevenson (Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation); Aanika Arjumand (Student Member); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Tondalayo Royster (Montgomery County Commission for Women); Kendall Stanley (Community Member); Smita Varia, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff);

Absent: Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); The Honorable Karen Ferretti (District Court for Montgomery County); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services); Mindy Thiel (Community Member);

Guests: Sharon Ledner (Katz Chief of Staff); Colleen Bokman (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Lieutenant David Cohen (Montgomery County Police Department); Leslie Hawes (Court Watch Montgomery); Captain Jerry McFarland (Montgomery County Police Department), Rosalia Scotman (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services);

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting

Tom Manion reviewed guidelines for virtual meeting participation. He asked everyone to mute microphones when not speaking. He asked the participants to use the chat function if they would like to speak and to use the raise hand function. He also requested that participants should identify themselves each time they speak.

III. Approval of January Minutes

The January 12, 2023 DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Lavontte Chatmon proposed a motion to approve the minutes without revision. The motion was seconded by

Councilmember Sidney Katz and passed.

IV. Announcements

- Jessica Volz announced that Shady Grove Medical Center has been a part of study for 2years to use alternate light for photographing bruises on people of color. The have started to implement this use which will help document injuries more easily.
- Smita Varia reminded the attendees that the May meeting will be in person at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. Dinner will be provided. **(At the time of typing the minutes, the May meeting will no longer be in person).**
- In recognition of March as Women's History Month, the Montgomery County Commission for Women, Montgomery County Public Libraries and Friends of the Library, Montgomery County is holding its Sixth Annual "Girl Power Contest" for county residents, ages 5 and up. The deadline is March 31st.
- Smita Varia is transferring positions from the DVCC Program Manager to the FJC Program Manager. She will still be involved with a few of the committees. She enjoyed coordinating all of the great initiatives over the past 5 ½ years.
- Jessica Volz announced that the Maryland Domestic Violence Fatality Review State Implementation Team released their first annual report.

V. 2023 DVCC Blueprint

- A. Tom Manion reviewed the 2023 DVCC Blueprint. This is a list of priorities for each committee to work through this year. With a blueprint, all members will be aware of current initiatives and goals. This will also help us facilitate cross committee collaborations. If you are on one committee, but you see that another committee is doing something that you can help with, you're able to reach out to that committee chair.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Maura Lynch, Chair

Smita Varia reviewed the goals for the Legislative and Policy Planning Committee for 2023. The goals are:

- Collaborate with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault to monitor legislation that supports the mission of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.
- Support selected legislation by working with the Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations to provide letters of support and/or testimony to the General Assembly.

B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair

Tom reviewed the goals that the Victim Services Committee developed for 2023. The goals are:

- Work with stakeholders in the County government, judiciary, and non-profit sectors to address legal issues related to post-separation abuse, which involves extensive, often frivolous and/or retaliatory court filings, which legal service providers are hesitant to take on due to resource limitations.
- Work with the Family Justice Center and Trauma Services to launch an Expungement Clinic for victims of intimate partner violence who require assistance removing false or retaliatory items from their record.

- Gather information regarding perceived gaps in housing services for victims of intimate partner violence, specifically those who have not engaged with the homeless services or shelter systems.

C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair

- Smita Varia announced that the Annual Choose Respect Video Contest is open with a deadline of March 13th. RespectFest is scheduled to be virtual from April 10th to April 14th. The in-person event at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center will be April 16th from 1 – 4 pm.
- Smita Varia announced that she, Lynne Harris, and Lavontte Chapmon have been working on reaching out to medical providers. Smita Varia and Lynne Harris had a recent meeting with a representative from the Department of Health and Human Services who has a database of all medical providers in the County who is willing to share our information and awareness cards.
- Tom Manion asked if the Education and Outreach Committee is thinking about trying to secure more funding to help with Expect Respect presentations. Smita Varia said that they do need more support and the Committee will discuss it at a future meeting.

D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – Ben Stevenson, Chair

Ben Stevenson reviewed the goals for the Legislative and Policy Planning Committee for 2023. The goals are:

- Review existing intervention strategies and apply remedies to gaps in offender supervision and services.
- Expand the coordination of supervision and services for both adult and juvenile offenders within our criminal justice system.
- Explore and become familiar with evidence-based program models that provide services for domestic violence offenders.

VII. Adjournment

Tom Manion, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm

The next DVCC meeting is May 11, 2023, from 5pm-7pm



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council